(c) whether Government propose to seek the help of social workers for the distribution of medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) There is no such report, even from Gujarat.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Production and Unauthorised Sale of the Drug 'Tidigestic' in Madras

6668. SHRI MATANG SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a powerful semi-synathatic drug sold under the brand name 'tidigenic' manufactured by Hyderabad-based Tamil Nadu Dadha Pharmaceuticals Limited which is 25 times more potent than morphine, has become the latest choice for addicts who find heroin and brown sugar hard to come by;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said drug is available in Madras and other cities at Rs. 20/- per tablet as against its prescribed rate of Rs. 10/- per tablet;

(c) whether Government propose to conduct any enquiry about the production and unauthorised sale of this drug and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action proposed to be taken to stop the production of this drug or restrict the sale thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) 'Tidigesic' is brand name of Buprenorphine which is a far more potent painkiller than morphine but with a lower abuse potential.

The sale of this drug is already restricted as it is a prescription drug under the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules. In view of its therapeutic use there is no proposal to stop its production.

The Monthly Index of Medical Specialities (MIMS) of April, 1994 has reported a retail price of Rs. 22.03 for 10 tablets of Tidigesic. The Central Government has no official report of its sale at a higher price.

The State Drugs Controllers are responsible for investigating into the allegation of violation of Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules including unauthorised sale.

Cases of Female Infanticides in Tamil Nadu

6669. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme that was brought by the Tamil Nadu Government to curb infanticide failed to take off and there are large scale female infanticides taking place in the Southern part of Tamil Nadu,

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Action Plan to Curb Population Growth

6670. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the recent two week deliberations in New York, beginning on April 4, 1994, a draft programme of action for population control was adopted;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what steps are to be taken by Government in the light thereof to curb